REMARKS

Claims 1 - 11 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-7 and 9-11 have been amended and claim 8 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated June 16, 2005.

Finality of the First Office Action:

It appears that the very first Office Action for this application, dated June 16, 2005, was inadvertently made final by the Examiner. This was clearly made in error. Accordingly, withdrawal of the finality of the first Office Action is respectfully requested.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner sets forth the following rejections:

1) claims 1-4, 6-8, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being unpatentable over Suga et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,449,426); and

2) claims 5 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suga et al.

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

According to the amended claim 1, a raw image of an objective scene captured in response to a capturing instruction is written to a first area of a memory by a first writer. The raw image stored in the first area is read by a reader. A first producer produces an image for recording based on the raw image read out by the reader, and a second producer produces an image for display based on the image for recording produced by the first producer.

The image for display produced by the second producer is written to a second area of the memory by a second writer. Furthermore, the image for recording produced by the first producer is written to a third area of the memory by a third writer.

Herein, an access speed to the memory is three times greater or more than a processing speed of each of the first producer and the second producer. In addition, the image for recording produced by the first producer is applied to the second producer without passing through the memory.

Rendering the access speed to the memory three times greater or more than the processing speed of each of the first producer and the second producer, and applying the image for recording produced by the first producer to the second producer without passing through the memory makes it possible to carry out in parallel a process of reading the raw image and processes of writing the image for display and the image for recording. Therefore, it is possible to quickly produce the image for display and the image for recording.

According to the amended claim 7, a first producer produces a main image for recording on the basis of a raw image of an objective scene captured in response to a capturing instruction. Furthermore, a second producer produces an image for display by making a first process on the main image for recording produced by the first producer. In addition, a third producer produces a size-reduced image for recording by making a second process on the image for display produced by the second producer.

Herein, each of the main image for recording, the image for display and the size-reduced image for recording is an image corresponding to a YUV format. In addition, a resolution of the main image for recording is higher than the resolution of the image for display, and the resolution of the image for display is higher than the resolution of the size-reduced image for recording. Furthermore, each of the first process and the second process includes a resolution-reducing process.

Thus, the resolution is decreased in an order of the main image for recording → the image for display → the size-reduced image for recording. The image for display is produced by making the first process including the resolution-reducing process on the main image for recording. Furthermore, the size-reduced image for recording is produced by making the second process including the resolution-reducing process on the image for display. Because of a difference of the resolution between the main image for recording and the image for display, the size-reduced image for recording is quickly produced by the second process on the image for display.

In contrast, Suga et al. disclose to write to a memory raw data corresponding to an object captured by an image sensing device and convert the raw data stored in the memory into image data suitable for recording.

However, Suga et al. fail to disclose or remotely suggest anything about a constitution of the claim 1 in which an access speed to the memory is three times greater or more than a processing speed of each of the first producer and the second producer, and the image for recording produced by the first producer is applied to the second producer without passing through the memory. Suga et al. also fail to disclose or remotely suggest anything about a constitution of the claim 7 in which the size-reduced image for recording is produced by making the second process including the resolution-reducing process on the image for display on the assumption that the resolution is decreased in an order of the main image for recording → the image for display → the size-reduced image for recording.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it is not possible to reach the present invention from Suga et al., and therefore, the present invention is patentable.

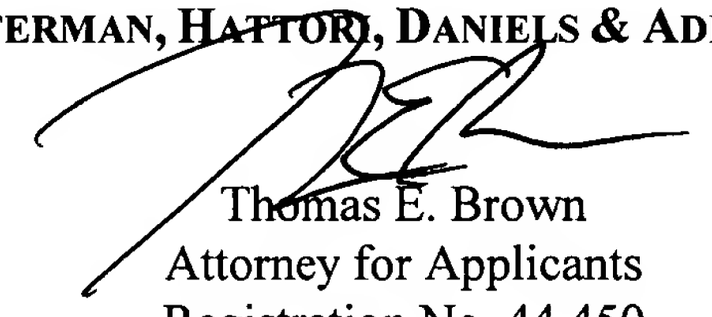
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



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